

ARTICLES TO BE ENQUIRED OF BY THE CHVRCH-

wardens in the Visitation of the Right

Worshipfull, Master ROBERT

JOHNSON, Batchelor in Diuinitie,

and Arch-deacon of Leicester, In

the yeare of our Lord

God. 1622.



LONDON,

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Bibliography



THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

HENRY STEVENS of Vermont,
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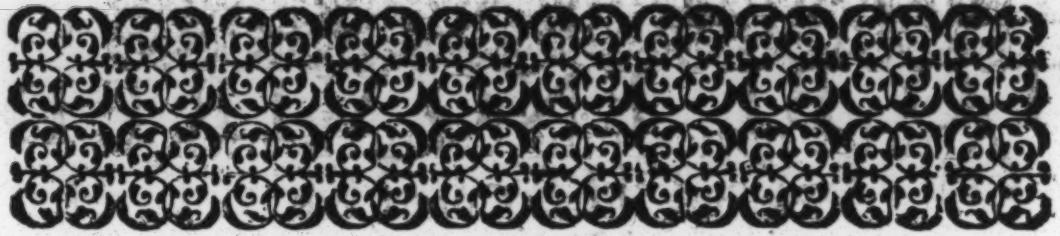


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~~1363 ad 37~~

Locusta, Bedellomy, Jr.

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The Tenour of the Oath ministred to all and euery
the Church-wardens and Sworne-men, chosen
for this present yeere.

You, and euery of you shall sweare by Almighty G O D, that all affection set aside, you shall, vpon due consideration of these Articles giuen you in charge, present vnto Master *Robert Johnson* aforesaid, and his Officiall; every such person and persons, of, or within your Parish, as hath committed any offence, or made any default mentioned in the same Articles, or which are vehemently suspected, or otherwise defamed of any such offence, fault, or default; wherein you and euery of you shall deale vprightly, as before God.. So helpe you God.

A short Admonition to the Church-wardens,
and Side-men.

You which shall bee sworne consider well of this Oath, and make your Presentments in writing, vnder your hands, to every Article generally in this Booke, bringing the same with you to Master Archdeacon of Leicester his Visitation, there to bee deliuered upon your Oathes.



Articles.

Articles concerning Church-men, as Parsons, Vicars, Curats, &c.



1. Whether your Parson or Vicar, or Preacher,
Curate be a Preacher of Gods word, a fauou-
ter and furtherer of true Religion now estab-
lished in this Realme of England by publike
authoritie, or not lawfully licencid; And if he be so, then whether he
be no licensed preacher. In whether your Parson or Vicar haue in preaching
preached, or caused to be preached in your Church, sermonnes, monethly Ser-
mons as by the late Canons are required: and whether before
all Sermons, Lectures, & Homilies, beth that forme of Prayer
which is set downe in the late Canon, and what be the names
of them, who haue preached for him; and whether he hath admitt-
ed any man to preach notwithstanding sufficient licence first shewed to them; according to
5. Whether any person or persons, not being ordered at the Say Service
least for a Deacon, doe say Common Prayer openly in your vnorderd
Church or Chappell?
6. Whether the Parson, Vicar, or Farmer of your Bene-
fice, doe cause or suffer any Curate or Minister to serue your ceasid
Church, before he be examined and admitted by the Ordinary, can. 48
or his Deputie, in writing, and doth shew his Licence to the
Church Wardens: and whether any Curate doe serue two Cures
at one time, or not?
7. Whether any Parson, Vicar, or Curate, doe every Sun-
day, when there is no Sermon, read distinctly and plainly some
part of the Homilies, as is prescribed by the Canons: and whe-
ther any Minister, not admittid by lawfull authoritie, doe ex-
pound any scripture, or matter of doctrine by the way of expa-
nation, or otherwise, and thereby omit and leau off the reading
of the Homilies, contrary to the Canons? Read Homilies
ca. 49.
8. Whether any Lectures, Conuenticles, or private mee-
tings, Priuete Con-
uenicles.

Articles concerning the Cleargie.

tings be read or bled within your parish, either publickely in the church, or priuately in the house, or in any other place whatsoeuer, by any person not sufficiently licensed thereto by the Ordinary, or whether any Ecclesiastical person do teach any doctrine of Innovation, to withdraw the people from due obedience to the ordinances of the Church, set forth by publike authoritie, or cause them to forbear participating in prayer and sacraments with our Church?

Catechisme.

9 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, do every Sunday and Holyday, openly in the Church, call for, heare, and instruct all children, apprentices, and seruantes of both sexes, that be of conuenient age within your parish, or at the least so many of them by course as the time will serue, & as he may wel heare and instruct, for one hour at the least, before ~~the~~ Cueming prayer, in the ten Commandements, the Articles of the faith, and the Lordes prayer, and diligently examine and teach them the Catechisme, as is now allowed, and set forth in the Booke of Common prayer, or M. Nowels Catechisms, with the understanding thereof: and faile not to present the offender heerein, together with such as are negligent commers to the said Catechisme?

10 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or other Minister in your Church or chappell hath admitted to the holy Communion any open and notorious fornicator, adulterer, or euill liver, by whom publike offence is giuen, without due Penance first done, to the satisfaction of the congregation, insyned him by his Ordinary: or any other malicious person, notoriously known and detected to be out of charity, or hath done any open wrong to his neighbour by word or deed, without due reconciliation first made to the party that is wronged?

Communion with ordinary bread.

11 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, doe minister the holy Communion with any other then common bread, appointed in the Booke of Common Prayer?

Ignorant per- sons admitted to the Com- munion.

12 Whether your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Minister, hath admitted to the holy Communion any of his parsh that cannot say the ten Commandements, the Articles of the Faith, the Lords Prayer in English, and whether he marry any persons which were single before, and cannot say the Catechisme, and whether

Articles concerning the Cleargie.

Whether hee beth to examine his Parishioners at convenient times, before he administer the Sacrament unto them, to the intent hee may know whether they can say by heart the same which is required in that behalfe, or no?

13 Whether your Preachers & Ministers be peace-makers, no brawlers, no sowers of discord: whether they be diligent in visiting the sicke, and comforting them, and doe move them earnestly (specially when they make their Testaments) to consider the necessity of the pore, and to give to their boxe, or Churche their charitable devotion and almes?

14 Whether any doe preach, declare or speake any thing in derogation of the Booke of Common prayer, set forth by the Lawes of this Realme, dispraising the same, or anything therein contained, or against the Preachers or Ministers of the Word and Sacraments?

15 Whether your Parsons, Vicars, Curates, or Ministers, keepe well their Registers of all Weddings, Burials, and Christenings within your Parish, according the Order published lately?

16 Whether they or any of them, keepe any suspected woman in their houses, or bee incontinent persons, given to drunkennesse, idlenesse, or to be haunters of Tauerne-s, Ale-houses, or suspected places, or be Hunters, Hawkers, Dicers, Carders, Table-players, Swearers, Liars, False dissimblers, Dam-s, or otherwise suspected of any notorious crime, or give any sullen example of life, or bse disordered or unseemly apparell, either in colours, gards, or light fashon: or doe not obserue the order prescribed in the seuentie fourth Canon, touching decencie in Apparell?

17 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate haue married any person within the times prohibited ~~contrary to the Canon~~ carefully asked in y^e Church
or parochial Lassell before
of y^e Ordinary.

18 Whether any contention hath growen among the Preachers in these parts for any matter of Doctrine or ceremonies, and what, & who was the cause thereof: and whether any strife or Pewes, hath growen about pewes or seats in the Churche, and between whom it was; and whether any new pewes haue been built in your Churche, and by whom, and what authoritie?

Articles concerning the Clergie.

Other Books.

19 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, do kepe a full and perfect note of all such as doe communicate in their several Parishes?

*Strangers
communicate*

20 Item, Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, doe admit to the holy Communion any stranger, or any of the next, or any other neare parish, without licence of the Ordinary, & leave of his Minister that is so admitted, or any that do not reverently kneele upon their knees. Can. 23. or any notorious drunke, adulterer, and publike offender, or any Churchwarden that haue omitted to present such offenders. Can. 109.

21 Item, Whether any of your parishioners having bee ne formerly admittted a Minister or Deacon, doth now relinquish his calling, vsing and carrying himselfe in the course of his life as a lay man. Can. 76.

g Articles concerning the Church.

*All books and
ornaments of
the Church.*

Whethir you haue in your parish Churches & Chappells all things necessary and requisit for Common prayer, and administration of the Sacraments, specially the Booke of Common prayer, published since his Maiesties time that now is, the English Bible in the largest volume, the two Tomes of Homilies, the Table of the Commandements, the Booke lately set forth by his Maiestie, the Booke called God and the King, the works of the right reverend Father in God, John Iewell, late Bishop of Sarisbury, a conuenient Pulpit well placed, a comely and decent table standing on a frame for the holy Communion, with a faire linnen cloth to lay vpon the same, & some couering of silke, buckram, or other such like, for the cleane keping thereof, a faire and comely cup of siluer, & a couer of siluer for the same, which may serue also for the ministracion of the Communion bread, a decent large Surplice with sleeves, a sure Cosser with two lockes and keyes, for the keping of the Register booke, a strong Chest or box for the almes of the poore, with thre lockes and keyes to the same, and all other things necessary in and to the premisses:

2 Whethir your Churches and chappells, with the Chancell Church-yard in therof, be wel and sufficently repaired, and kept without abuse of any thing: and whether your Church-yards be well fenced, and

Articles concerning Schoolemasters.

and cleanly kept; and if any part be in decay, through whose de-
fault it is so?

3 Whether any man haue pulled downe or vncouered any Cell Church
Church, Chancell, or Chappell, or any part of any of them, any goods.
Church-porch, Vestry, or Steple, ~~Wimes banch~~, or such like, or
haue pulled downe the Bells, Chimes, Clocks, or haue felled or
Spoyled any wood or timber in any Church-yard.

Articles concerning Schoolemasters.

VWhether the Schoolemasters which teach within your Parish,
parish, openly or privately, in any Noble or Gentle-
mans house, or in any other place, be of god and sincers Religi-
on, life & conuersation, and be diligent in teaching and bringing
up of Youth: and whether they haue been examined, allowed,
and licenced for Schoolemasters in such order, as is required by
the Statutes and Canons in this behalfe?

2 Whether your Schoolemasters doe themselves come to
the Church, and receive the holy Communion as oft as they
ought: and whether they bring with them so many of their
Schollers, as are of knowledge, and age sufficient, to receive
the Lords Supper?

3 Whether the Schoolemasters, either priuate or publike, Teach Novels
do teach their Schollers ^{or} Nowels Catechisme or some other Catechisme,
publikely authorized, at the least once every weeke?

4 Whether any of your Schoolemasters, be knowne or sus-
pected to read to their Schollers in priuat any unlawfull books, Teach Popery,
privately to instruct them in their young yeres, either in Pope-
ry, superstition, disobedience, or contempt to his Maestie and
his lawes, either Ecclesiasticall or Tempozall?

5 Item, whether any Schoolemaster doe teach and instruct
children in the Booke called God and the King?

Articles concerning Executors, and Administrators.

In primis, What children under the age of 21. yeres, or other
persons haue died in your Parish since Michaelmas last, that
had any goods, rights, chattels or legacies belonging unto them
at the time of their death, and whether administration be taken
of the said goods, yea or no; and what be the names of such per-
sons as are so deceased?

Articles concerning Ecclesiastical Officers

2 Item, whether any in your Parish doe meddle with any goods of any person deceased before the will be proved, or administration be granted by the Ordinary?

3 Item, whether any person in your parish haue administered or medled with the goods of any deceased, by colour of proving the Will, or obtaining administration elsewhere, having not also ~~not~~ taken administration from the Ordinary of the Dioces of Lincolne, for all the goods of the said deceased being within the said Diocese, and whose will hath been so proved, or administration granted, and by whom?

Articles concerning Ecclesiastical Officers.

I Nprimis, whether hath any Ecclesiastical Judge, Register, Procurator, Apparitor, or other Minister belonging to any Ecclesiastical Courts within this Countrey, extorted or taken (by colour of his or their Offices) any greater fees for probate of wills, and granting Letters of Administration, or otherwise then heretofore hath been accustomed to bee taken, or then are allowed by the lawes of this Realme?

2 Item, whether any of the said Officers belonging to such Ecclesiastical Courts, doe take upon them the office of Informers and Promoters? Can. 138.

3 Item, whether do you know or haue heard, that any person of your parish hath paid, or promised to pay any summe of money, or other reward directly or indirectly, by himselfe or others to any Officer of the said Ecclesiastical Courts for the avoyding of punishment for Incest, adultery, fornication, or other crime punishable in the said courts, if so, declare to whom, when and what summes, &c.

4 Item, whether any Apparitor, or other Messenger haue summoned any person to appeare in any Ecclesiastical Court without a lawfull processe, having the name of every person so summoned to appeare expressly entred in the said Processe subscribed and sealed by the Judge or his Deputy. Can. 120.

Articles concerning Church-wardens.

I Nprimis, whether were you the Churchwardens and Side-men chosen by the consent of the Minister and Parishioners: and whether do you serue in your owne right, or as Deputies to others? Can. 90.

2 Item,

Articles concerning the Parishioners.

2 Item, whether haue the Churchwardens before you giuen
by a iust and true account of their time, and delinuered unto you
whatsoeuer money, or other goods or stocke belonging to your
Church, which was in their hands : Can. 89.

3 Item, whether haue you a terrar of the Gleabe lands be-
longing to your Church, eyther such as concerneth the minis-
ters right, or such as hath been givens to any Schoole, or other
religious blesse :

4 Item, whether any part of such Gleabe lands be encroa-
ched by any of the neighbours, and by them detayned from the
Church, and right blesse :

5 Item, whether your Parsonage, or Vicarage houses, or
any part thereof be suffered to fall to decay, or be vsed and con-
uerterd to common Innes, Alehouses, or tippling houses :

6 Item, whether haue you suffered any strange Preacher to
preach in your parish Church, or Chappel, but such as are licen-
ced by lawfull authority, and whether haue you a booke to enter
the names of such Preachers, according to the 52. Canon :

7 Articles concerning the Parishioners, and
others of the Laitie.

VWhether all fathers and mothers, and gouernours of Receiving the
youth within your Parish, cause their children, ser- Communion.
vants, and apprentices, both mankinde and womankinde (aboue
7. yeres of ago, and vnder twenty) which haue not learned the
Catechisme, to come to the Church on Sundayes & Holydayes
at the times appoynted, & there diligently and obediently heare
and be ordered by the Minister, till such time as they haue lear-
ned the same Catechisme : and what be the names of those that
cause not their children, seruants and apprentices, so to come to
Church to be instructed and examined :

2 Whether you your selues, or the Churchwardens in the Whores depart
yéres before you, haue suffered any unmaried woman, gotten vnpunished,
with child, to go out of the parish before she hath done penance
appoynted by the Ordinary, and out of whose houses they haue
gone away with child vnpunished : & how many unmaried wo-
men haue bin deliuerned of child within your parish these 3. yérs
last past having gone away without doing penance ; and whe-
ther any maried couples within your parish doe live asunder :

Articles concerning the Parishioners,

Papists.

3 Whether there be any man or woman in your parish, that resorteth to any Papish priest for shrift, or auricular confession, or receiuesth instructions from them for any the like cause?

Popish Bookes

4 Whether there bee any person or persons, Ecclesiasticall or temporall, within your parish, or elsewhere within this Arch-deaconry, that haue retained, or kept in their custody, or that read, sell, bter, disperse, carry, or deliuer to others, any English Bookes, set forth of late yeres in any other place beyond the seas, by Papists, Jesuites, or Seminary Priests, either against the Kings Maiesties supremacy in matters Ecclesiasticall, or against the true Religion and Catholike doctrine, now received and established by common Authority within this Realme, and what their names, and surnames are?

Papists.

5 Whether there be any in your Parish that beth to pray in English, or in Latine vpon Beades, or any such like thing, or vpon any superstitious Papish Primer, or other such like Booke?

Absent from Sermon.

6 Whether any of your parishioners, having a Preacher to their Parson, Vicar, or Curate, do absent themselves from his Sermons, and resort to any other place, to learn or follow after such innovations as are there taught? at y same time.

Resort to Church.

7 Whether the people of your parish, especially householders haing no lawfull excuse to bee absent, doe faithfully and diligently endeavour themselves to resort with their childdren and seruants to their parish Church or Chappell on the Holidayes, and chiefly on the Sundayes, to Morning & Euening Prayer, at the beginning, and not depart vntill the end thereof, without vrgent occasion?

12 d. for ab-
sents leuied.

8 Whether the forfeiture of twelue pence for every such offence, appoynted by a statute made in the first yere of the late Queenes Maiesties reigne, bee leuyed and taken according to the same Statute, by the Church-wardens, of every person that offendeth, and by them be put to the vse of the poore of the parish: if it be not, by whose default it is not leuied?

Baptized in o-
ther Parishes.

9 Whether any childdren that be borne in your Parish, bee carried forth of the Parish to be baptizid elsewhere, or with any Papish Ceremony, or otherwise then is appoynted by the Booke of Common Prayer, or whether any haue not beeene

and others of the Laytie.

beene baptizid at all, or in places vnkno lone?

10 Whether there be any Inne-keepers, Ale-wines, Victu-
allers or Tipplers, that suffer, or do admit any person or persons Sell in Service
time.
in their houses, to eate, drinke or play at Dice, Cards, Tables,
Tennis, Bowles, or such like Games. in the time of Common
prayer, or Hermon on Sundayes or holydayes: or any Butcher
or other that commonly vsed to sell meate, or other things in the
time of Common prayer, preaching, or reading of Homilies:
and whether in any Faires, or common Markets, falling vpon
the Sunday, there bee any shewing of wares before Morning
prayer be done: and whether any Markets or selling of wares
be vsed or suffered in any Church-yards, by common packmen,
or Pedlers going about, to any such people either of your Pa-
rish, or not of the same Parish?

11 Whether the late Church-wardens and Sworne-men Concealed of
fences.
haue concealed any crime or disorder in their time done in your
parish, & haue not presented the same, and whether they or any
of them, at any such time as they shoulde haue ben at diuine ser-
vice on sundayes or holydayes, and shoulde there haue obserued
others that were absent, haue been away themselues, at home,
or in some Tauerne, or Alehouse, or else about some worldly
busynesse, or at bowles, cardes, tables, dice, or other gaming,
without regard of their office and duty in that behalfe?

12 Whether any of your Parish, being of conuenient age, Receive the
Communion.
hath not receiued the holy Communion thrice this last yeare at
the least, and namely at Easter day last, or thereabout for once,
and what their names are, or which receiuing, haue not signi-
fied the same before to your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, that hee
might conveniently examine them, and who haue refused to
come to him to bee examined: and herein you shall exhibite a
scedule from your Minister, containing all the uames of the of-
fenders within your Parish?

13 Whether there be any in your Parish that administer the Willes,
goods of those that bee dead without lawfull Authority, or any
that supprese the last will of the dead, or any Executors that
haue not fulfilled their Testators will, especially in paying Le-
gacies giuen to the Church, or any other good and godly vses,
as the releefe of Orphanes, or poore Schollers, Maydens ma-

Articles concerning the Parishioners,

mariages, Highwayes, Schooles, and such like, and by whome they are so deteined?

Married after
Popish orders.

14 Whether any couples that haue bin maried within these two yéeres last, haue haene knownen or suspected to haue haene maried without the ring, or after the Popish order, or any other order then is appoynted by the Church of England, by reason that the one party or the other are noted to be such as refuse to come to the Church?

Swearers,
Bawdes, &c.

15 Whether there be among you any Blasphemers of the name of God, great or often swearers, adulterers, fornicators, incestuous persons, bawdes, or receiuers of naughty and incontinent persons, or harbourers of women with child, which be unmaried, conueying or suffring them to go away before they doe any penance, or make satisfaction to the congregation: or any that be vehemently suspected of any such faults, or that bee not of good name & fame touching any such crime & fault, any drun-kards or ribauds, or any that bee malicious, contentious, or uncharitable persons, common slanderers of their neighbors, raylers, scolds, or sowers of discord betwene neighbors, and specially raylers against Ministers, and against their mariages?

Marry within
degrees.

16 Whether there be any in these parts that haue married within the degrees of affinity, or consanguinity, by the lawes of God forbidden, set out in ~~an admonition~~ in a table appoynted to be fixed in euery parish Church within this Archdeconry, whether you haue the said table so fixed in your Church, or any that being diuorced or separated from the same, doe yet notwithstanding standing cohabit and kepe company still together, or any that being married without those degrees, haue unlawfully forsaken their wifes or husbands, and that being diuorced & separated asunder, haue married againe, and that haue married and contracted themselves without the consent of their parents, tutors, or gouernours: any that haue married without banes thise solemnly asked, and out of their owne parish Church.

Marry forni-
cators.

17 Item, whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate, haue wittingly maried together any couples, whereof the woman hath haene begot with child, or carnally knownen before mariage: or whether the man for money or reward hath maried any woman that hath committed adultery with another man, without publike acknowledg-

and others of the Laytie.

acknowledgement of their offences, & reconciliation to the parish: what are the names of all such as haue bin so maried in any such case & when, & by whom they were so maried together?

18 Item, whether there be any in your parish that doth and Excommunicate hath stood fortie dayes excommunicate: whether any doth keepe company, eat or drinke, buy, sell, or contract with any excommunicate person, and who they be that doe so?

19 Item, whether any dying excommunicate, hath been buried in Christian buriall for this last yere past, and who they be that were so buried, who buried them, and who were present at their buriall?

20 Whether your Register booke of Christenings, Weddings and Burials, be orderly and duly kept: and whether, according to the late Canon in that behalfe made, it bee put into Parchment, containing the names and surnames of all such as haue bene christened, maried, and buried? Register booke

21 Whether doe the Minister & Churchwardens subscribe their names, or their several marks to the end of every page of the said Register booke: and whether is the said booke kept under three locks, and three keyes, as by the Canon it is required?

22 Whether all the Canons & Constitutions lately published be duly and respectively obserued on the part of the Clergy or Laity, as is in them required, and whether you haue the said Booke of Canons in your Church? All Canons obserued.

23 Whether any of your parish do practise Physick or Chirurgery without license, and what be their names?

24 Whether any woman in your parish execute the office of a Midwife, without licence from the Ordinary?

25 Whether any in your parish doe use Sorcery, or Witchcraft, and Charming, or such like bad practises, taking vpon them to cast out deuils, or any that resort unto them for their helpe, and counsell?

26 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate haue two Benefices in this Diocese, or one in this Diocese, and another in another?

27 Whether you haue any Recusants in your Parish, and what they be?

F I N I S.



